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SOURCE Statisticky Zpravodaj, Vol XIII, No 1, 1950.POWER RESOURCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

J. Wisinger

Czechoslovakia produced 2,563 kilograms of coal per inhabitant in 1948. According to the State Geological Institute, Czechoslovakia has 13 billion tons of black coal reserves and 11 billion tons of brown coal reserves. There are, therefore, 1,070 tons of black coal and 910 tons of brown coal per inhabitant. The coal reserves would last only 130 years with an annual 2-percent increase in extraction.

Electric power plants in Czechoslovakia have been developing great economy in fuel consumption. By concentrating production in newer plants and through cooperation, the average consumption of coal was lowered from 1.3 kilograms per kilowatt-hour in 1928 to 0.8 kilogram per kilowatt-hour in 1948; that is, about 5,000 kilocalories. The 1948 production would have required 3 million more tons of coal at the former rate of consumption. Further improvements can be obtained by the construction of modern electric power plants. Calorie saving has been even greater because large electric power plants now burn relatively more fuels which are less valuable, unsalable, and unsuitable for transportation. Similarly, by utilizing blast furnace gases and waste heat from furnaces in cement plants and steel mills, over one-half million tons of coal will be saved each year.

Power produced by water constitutes 2 percent of all power produced in Czechoslovakia. The increase in hydroelectric production between 1930 and 1948 saved about one-half million tons of valuable coal, but production in thermal power plants rose by 3,883,000,000 kilowatt-hours in the same period. Because of drought, power plants consumed an additional quarter-million tons of coal in 1947.

The Five-Year Plan calls for boosting production by constructing new hydroelectric power plants, but the share of hydroelectric power production still will be only 14 percent of the total power production. It will always be necessary, therefore, to meet most of the demand for power from sources other than hydroelectric. Hydroelectric power plants, however, will postpone the exhaustion of coal reserves.

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The best aid to mechanization is the electric motor, which is also the largest consumer of electricity. Czechoslovakia produced 487,000 electric motors for domestic use and export in 1948, and, according to the Five-Year Plan, will produce 890,000 units in 1953.

The plan for exploitation of the various sources of power for 1953 is as follows:

<u>Source of Power</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Index</u>	
		<u>1948 = 100</u>	<u>1937 = 100</u>
Black coal	20,800,000 tons	118	124
Brown coal	32,200,000 tons	136	180
Water power	1,600,000,000 kw-h	172	282

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